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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/018,463	04/10/2002	Takeshi Katsuhira	46/160	1777

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MANELLI DENISON & SELTER
2000 M STREET NW SUITE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3307

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

HABTE, KAHSAY

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1624

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/018,463

Applicant(s)

KATSUHIRA ET AL.

Examiner

Kahsay Habte, Ph. D.

Art Unit

1624

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --***Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7&10-11. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7 are pending.

Election/Restriction

2. Applicant's election with traverse of Group XXVI, Claims 1-7 in Paper No. 14 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that no lack of unity was found in ISR (international Search Report) and in IPER (International Preliminary Examination Report).

This is not found persuasive because the United States Patent and Trademark Office is *not* bound by the lack of unity determination by another International Searching Authority. MPEP 1875 states that whether or not the question of unity of invention has been raised by the International Searching Authority, it may be considered by the examiner when serving as an authorized officer of the International Preliminary Examining Authority. Thus, the Examiner is *not* bound by any previous determination made. In addition, 37 C.F.R. 1.484 indicates that the international preliminary examination is a non-binding opinion. Finally, 37 C.F.R. 1.499 states that, if the Examiner finds that a national stage application lacks unity of invention under 37 C.F.R. 1.475, the Examiner may in an Office action require the applicant in the response to that action to elect the invention to which the claims shall be restricted. Thus, the determination of lack of unity is proper under the PCT treaty.

In regard to the argument: "As stated in MPEP 1875, the examiner may when preparing the IPER consider whether the international application complies with the

requirement of unity of invention...”, the examiner disagrees with applicants. Since the examiner is not preparing an IPER, the argument is invalid.

Note that the molecule as a whole has very little invariant structure. A carbon attached to a nitrogen is required at 2 points, but the rest of the molecule has nothing in common.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

3. The claims are drawn to multiple inventions for reasons set forth in the restriction requirement. The claims are examined only to the extent that they read on the elected invention. Cancellation of the non-elected subject matter is recommended in response to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention:

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a. In claim 1 and claims dependent thereon are rejected because the phrase "general formula" is indefinite. A formula cannot be general, but specific. It is recommended that applicants delete "general" from said phrase to overcome the rejection.

b. In claim 1, the variable " R_3 " in the chemical structure formula (I) should read as " R^3 ".

c. In claim 1 (page 12, line 8), the phrase "X may form a condensed ring" is indefinite. What ring? Carbocyclic or heterocyclic? Size of the rings? If heterocyclic, what is the nature and number of the heteroatoms in the ring?

d. In claim 1, the phrase " R^1 and R^2 may form a 4 to 7 membered ring by combining to each other" is not clear. Since R^1 and R^2 are attached to N, it is recommended that the claim read as " R^1 and R^2 together with the N to which they are attached may form a 4 to 7 membered ring by combining to each other."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kahsay Habte, Ph. D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-4717. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9.00AM- 5:30PM).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mukund Shah can be reached on 703-308-4716. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.



Kahsay Habte, Ph. D.
Examiner
Art Unit 1624

KH
August 12, 2003



Mark L. Berch
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1624